

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 4th April 2012, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford and T. Thomas.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Mr P. M. Thomas - Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

184. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. B. Bellis (other commitment), J. Butterfield (indisposed), Mrs L. M. Edwards (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (work commitment) and G. Williams (other commitment).

185. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) advising that the date of the audit will be 30th June 2012.

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

186. CONSULTATION: H-BRIDGE RHYL – ONE WAY TRAFFIC ORDER 201

Further to Minute No.82 of the meeting on 2nd November 2011 and the subsequent site meeting and public consultation exercise, the Chair reported receipt of copies of the Public Notice in respect of the proposals for the H Bridge (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED *that the Public Notice be received.*

187. CONSULTATION: BURBO BANK EXTENSION OFFSHORE WINDFARM – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Further to Minute No.112 of the meeting on 7th December 2011, the Chair reported receipt of details of the next stage of public consultation with regard to the Windfarm extension (circulated with Agenda), which was to be held at Tynewydd Community Centre in Rhyl on Tuesday 17th April between 12.00pm and 6.00pm.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the consultation on the Town Council's behalf.*

188. INFORMATION ITEM: BRAND NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2012

The Chair reported receipt of the BRAND Project's Winter Newsletter (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk asks Denbighshire County Council to consider inviting the BRAND Project to a future Members Area Meeting to provide an update on their work so far.

189. INFORMATION ITEM: NORTH WALES POLICE CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from North Wales Police advising of changes to the way anti-social behaviour will be recorded and managed in the future (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the information be received.

190. INFORMATION ITEM: THE HUB – ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

The Chair reported receipt of an e-mail from Chris Ruane MP (circulated with Agenda) advising of vacancies on the Board of Directors.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Council had fairly recently decided to withdrawn its representation from this organisation due to lack of communication from them.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

191. INFORMATION ITEM: DEADLINE FOR DIAMOND JUBILEE STREET PARTY APPLICATIONS

The Chair reported receipt of a press release (circulated with Agenda) from Denbighshire County Council advising that the closing date for organisations to apply for permission to hold street parties was 30th April.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

192. INFORMATION ITEM: OLYMPIC TORCH ROUTE

The Chair referred to the report submitted to the last Members Area Group meeting (circulated with Agenda) advising of the route the Olympic Torch will take through Rhyl on 29th May.

On an unconnected matter, a Member advised that she had met with Denbighshire County Council's Chief Executive on Rhyl's promenade just that morning and that he had asked her what were Rhyl Members doing about the state of the Drift Park as it was looking awful?

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the information be received.*
- b) *the Town Clerk be instructed to ask Denbighshire County Council to consider "the state of the Drift Park" as requested by its Chief Executive, as an Agenda item for a future Members Area Group meeting.*

[The Chair reminded Members not to raise issues for debate that were not on the Agenda]

193. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Clerk submitted a number of documents for Members information which had been received following the circulation of the Agenda papers relating to:

- Nomination Forms for South West Rhyl Communities First Annual Awards Ceremony;
- An email received from Mr. Graham Boase relating to the Rhyl Market
- Copy of a letter circulated to Water Street and Crescent Road residents
- A Press release relating to the quality of the Marine Lake water quality.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *all of the information be received.*
- b) *the Town Clerk to add 'Rhyl's Markets' to the Agenda of the meeting of Council to be held on 18th April, 2012.*

194. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, on the grounds of confidentiality.

195. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL S.M.A.R.T. GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 86 of the Meeting of Council held on 18th January 2012, the progress report of the S.M.A.R.T. Group (Councillors I.A. Gunning, Mrs. W. Mullen-James, A.J. Rutherford and D.A.J. Thomas) was submitted for Members consideration. A presentation was also provided by Councillor A.J. Rutherford.

The report and presentation provided the wider Council with a general overview of the detail of the work undertaken to date and sought approval of the Council for the work to continue.

In particular the report identified

- that significant time had been spent by the Group in developing the processes by which the document could be progressed by the Council and it was

- therefore important to ensure that the approach being taken was in accord with the wishes of the wider Council membership.
- The background to the preparation of the document and why Members considered it appropriate to progress a Strategic Plan for the Council;
 - An understanding of the S.M.A.R.T. process;
 - Details of the drivers of change which would influence the Council's Objectives,
 - Reminding Members of their previously defined broad objectives;
 - The envisaged advantages to the Council of producing a Strategic plan;
 - Work undertaken to date
 - Future work required
 - The necessary commitment to the process by the wider membership requiring Councillors to be committed, consistent, persistent, and to take ownership of the plan.

In response to questions/observations of Members the Group responded:

- that the draft plan was indicative only at this time and was provided to assist Members in understanding the nature of the final document;
- That the draft Strategic Plan document submitted with the report was intended to provide Members with an understanding of the nature of the final document and was not being submitted for approval.
- That regular reports would be submitted to future meetings of Council so as to enable Members to participate in the process
- That the Plan was designed to engage in all areas of the Council's service delivery – financial as well as non financial;
- That it was intended that the plan would run for 4 or 5 years, and would not be politically biased and that input from all Members was required and necessary
- That one way of involving the wider membership in open and productive debate was likely to be through a "Council away-day"
- That Members should be encouraged to submit any relevant documents and information with the Group to ensure prior consideration and inclusion within the first draft of the Town Council Plan
- That the current work of the Group should not be seen as a criticism of past council work but as a necessary revised approach to address identified issues and future resource allocation.

RESOLVED that the interim report of the Group be approved and that a further report be submitted to the July meeting of the Committee.

196. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Chair:

Date: